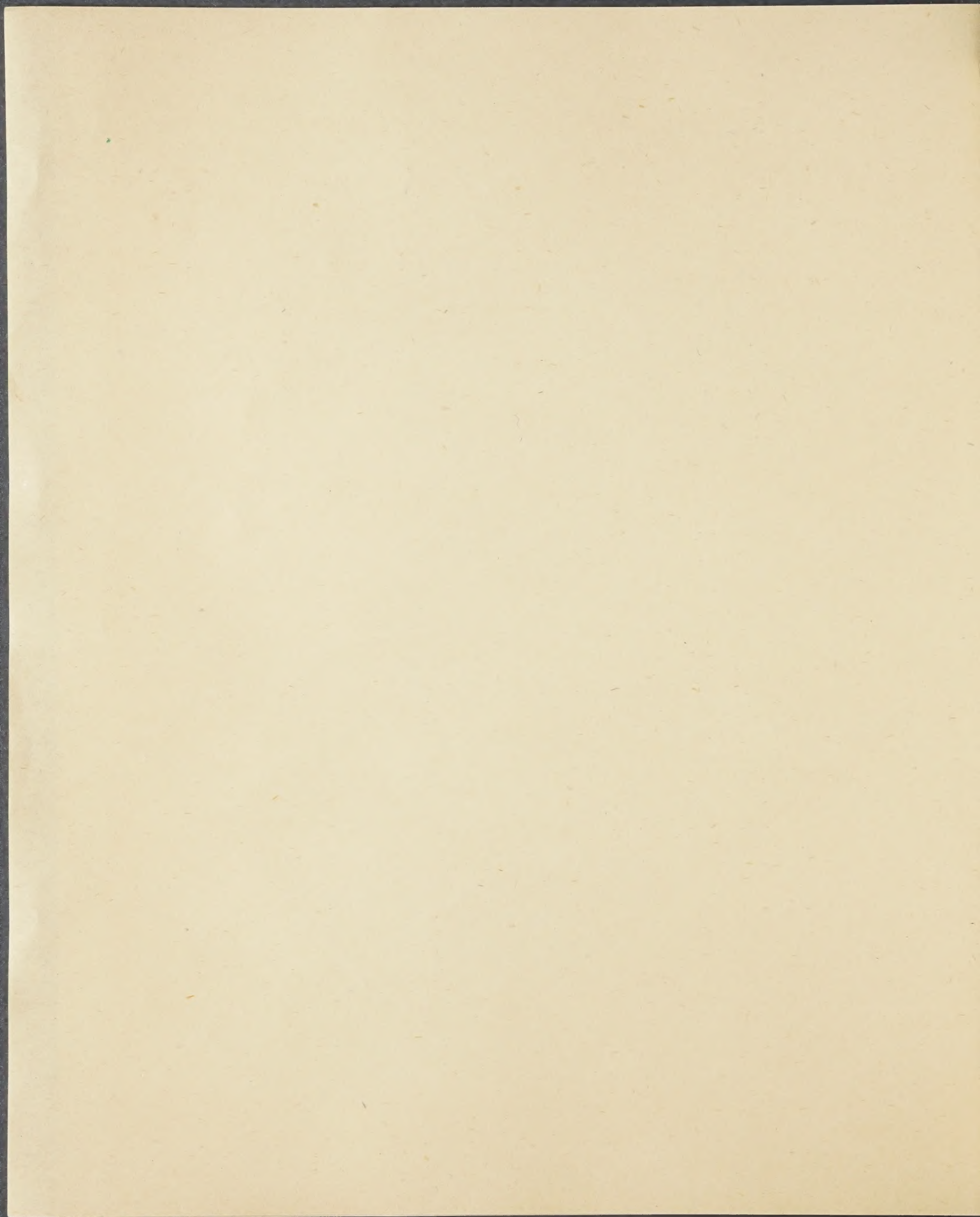


Alexander, William John

Aug 1915



TORONTO,

Aug 5th 1885

Dear President Falconer,

I have received your letter & will keep the papers as you wish. I was extraordinarily interested in Mr Smith's letter, but I cannot accept his prophecies. It seems to me that he writes like a man abnormally obsessed by certain ideas.

In the first place, from our point of view, I think Mr Smith would be a most desirable accession. Even supposing - as with my ^{limited} knowledge of him - seems quite possible that at his age, he might not be wholly successful as a teacher of ordinary classes, the addition of such a man to the English staff would greatly strengthen it on the side of scholarship & distinction, and certainly for Graduate work.

But on the other hand, from the point of view of his interests, the idea seems absurd. A salary of £1000 (presumably with pension in future) must be quite a handsome income in the Old Country. I should think he might well be able to make some provision for his daughters out of it. Whereas Stevenson - although Mr & S. is very capable, & they had only the smallest child - found it no easy matter to get along. I should judge that no doubt the openings for women are likely to be greater in Canada than in Scotland, but certainly there is no brilliant outlook even here. I often wonder what is to happen to my own girls. Then what a multitude of ruin

sacrifices are involved in a man of his age & position changing his environment, from Edinburgh to Toronto! I cannot but think he would have a most disagreeable awakening sooner or later, should he come here. The truth is, he seems to me, as I said before, like a man whose balance is upset by the war, & fear of social change - especially in Canada. Naturally no doubt we will be after the war in a better position than Britain after the war, though I have no idea whether his black prejudices in this regard are justified. But why if society is to be in such a bad condition over there, should we be in a better case ^{here}? I feel pretty confident that for a long time yet, Britain is likely to be a better governed country, with sounder public opinion than either Canada or the United States. Of course if a man has the distrust that Mr. Smith has of democracy [intending in the light of what you say as to his personal history] what is there to look forward to in this world?

Dimas, I judge might be a suitable man for a Junior appointment - say on a level with Clark. He seems to be an Englishman however, not a Serboman. But I doubt if it is wise to make a junior appointment this year. What we need is a strong mature man, in view especially of the fact that my own tenure must be nearing its close. I think that at least this session we may see that we can do with a smaller staff - unless indeed the perfect man is available.

I am glad you are having a peaceful holiday, & that the boys are so much better. If you take them back to Toronto well, that will be a great relaxation of strain. We are all well. Morrow has obtained his "flying" certificate, & has been accepted for the Naval aerial service. He is with us for a few days but, I suppose, may be ordered to England any moment. W. J. Alexander

De Grand Point, C. H. T.

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TORONTO,

Aug. 23^d 1915

Dear Mr President

I enclose the letter in regard to Dr. Klassen. If we can accept the judgment of the writers he seems to a very likely candidate. His presumable age, varied experience, standing in solidarity are strong points in his favour. If he is what I expect him to be, our putting him above Clark is manifestly justifiable. One might from his general ^{judge} ~~judgement~~ ^{judgement} be a philologist but we may, I suppose, accept the testimony of his country

shall be interested to hear our letter & Lloyd's
opinion.

We shall be ^{back} in Toronto the end of next week -
the beginning of the following week, when the School
re-opens. | Morrow sailed for England last week

Yours very sincerely

W. J. Alexander